

Message Text

SECRET

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17

ACTION NEA-09

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5167

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 0161

E.O. 11652: NGDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, US

SUBJ: ALLON'S CONCERN ABOUT "STATE DEPARTMENT LEAK" RE
ALLEGED ISRAELI CONCESSIONS TO EGYTP

1. JUST BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON THIS MORNING AT THE AIRPORT, FONMIN ALLON EXPRESSED TO ME HIS DEEP CONCERN ABOUT REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON WHICH HE HAD HEARD ON 7AM ISRAELI NEWS, ACCORDING TO WHICH GOUI HAD ALREADY AGREED TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT WITHDRAWALS IN SINAI FOR MODEST POLITICAL CONCESSIONS.

2. TEXT OF RELEVANT PORTION OF NEWS BROADCAST (TRANSLATED FROM HEBREW) IS AS FOLLOWS. BEGIN TEXT. IN VIEW OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON A WAVE OF REPORTS IS ARRIVING FROM THERE ABOUT THE CONCESSIONS WHICH ISRAEL IS ASKED TO MAKE TO EGYPT IN THE NEXT ROUND AND ABOUT THE CONCESSIONS TO WHICH IT IS ALLEGED TO HAVE AGREED. THE DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT OF THE CBS BROADCASTING NETWORK SAYS THAT ISRAEL HAS ALREADY INFORMED EGYPT THAT IT IS PREPARED TO GIVE UP THE TWO MAIN PASSES IN SINAI IN RETURN FOR WHAT WAS DESCRIBED AS A MODEST POLITICAL CONCESSION. EGYPT, THE AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT ADDS, HAS NOT REPLIED WITH A MEANINGFUL COUNTER-PROPOSAL. THE CORRESPONDENT ALSO SAYS THAT DR KISSINGER HAD WARNED THAT IF THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE TO SUCCEED, ABU RODEIS AND THE PASSES--OR AT LEAST ONE OF THESE

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TWO-SHOULD BE RETURNED TO EGYPT. END TEXT.

3. ALLON TOLD ME THAT HE WAS VERY DISTURBED BY THESE REPORTS WHICH HE BELIEVED WERE THE RESULT OF A LEAK FROM A STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL. HE KNEW MARVIN KALB TO BE A CAREFUL, ACCURATE REPORTER WHO WOULD NOT CONCOCT SUCH A STORY OUT OF WHOLE CLOTH. ALLON THOUGHT THAT THIS OFFICIAL MIGHT HAVE BELIEVED THAT HE WAS HELPING THE CAUSE OF PEACE BY MAKING IT APPEAR THAT ISRAEL WAS VERY FLEXIBLE. ALLON SAID THAT THE RESULT WAS COMPLETELY COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. HE HAD OF COURSE BEEN FORCED TO DENY THE REPORTS IN HIS DEPARTURE COMMENTS AT AIRPORT BECAUSE (A) THE REPORTS WERE FALSE AND (B) IT WOULD

BE VERY DAMAGING TO GOI'S DOMESTIC POSITION IF ISRAELIS BELIEVED THAT GOI WAS GIVING UP ITS NEGOTIATING CARDS ON EVE OF HIS TRIP TO WASHINGTON. EVRON HAS CALLED ME SINCE HIS DEPARTURE SAYING THIS WASHINGTON BROADCAST HAS STIRRED UP A HORNET'S NEST WITH THE OPPOSITION AND JOURNALISTS.

4. ALLON ALSO SAID THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT REPORTS WERE RESULT OF LEAKS BY ISRAELI EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON SINCE IT WAS CLEARLY HARMFUL TO ISRAEL'S INTEREST TO HAVE THIS KIND OF STORY SURFACE NOW.

5. ALLON'S REPLY TO REPORTERS' QUESTIONS AT AIRPORT THIS MORNING (TRANSLATED FROM HEBREW) WAS AS FOLLOWS: " ALL THE REPORTS THAT HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED THESE LAST FEW DAYS, AND PARTICULARLY THIS MORNING, THAT ISRAEL HAS ALREADY COMMITTED ITSELF TO WITHDRAW FROM CERTAIN PLACES OR THAT I AM LEAVING WITH CONSENT TO DO SO, ARE SPECULATION AND IN NO WAY FOUNDED ON FACTS."

6. REFERRING TO BRIEFCASE WHICH ALLON CARRIED, I INQUIRED WHETHER THIS WAS THE WAY HE WAS CARRYING HIS MAPS. WITH A SMILE HE REPLIED THAT HE WAS TAKING NO MAPS WITH HIM AND THAT DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON WOULD DEAL ONLY WITH " MODALITIES".
KEATING

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